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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TOWN OFFICERS

OF

BENNINGTON, N. H.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1876.

PETERBORO':

PRINTED BY FARNUM AND SCOTT.

1876.

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SCHOOL REPORT.

*To the Parents of Scholars, and the Citizens of the
Town of Bennington:*

We are permitted again to present before you our annual report of the condition of our public schools. Standing on this high eminence—the centennial year of our national existence—let us glance over the years that have passed, in which we have toiled on with unfaltering faith in the truth of that principle laid down in our State constitution, that “Knowledge and learning generally diffused through a community are essential to a free government.”

Many of you can remember far back in the past century the condition of the school buildings in “ye olden time.” Rude buildings, unclapboarded and unpainted, standing in some swamp or upon some hill-side, where the snows of winter blew in through the crevices in the walls. You remember, too, its capacious fireplace, occupying nearly one side of the school-room, with its blazing fire of logs.

Here reading, writing and ciphering comprised the sum total of the studies pursued. Geography, grammar and history were almost unknown in our common schools. The ferrule and the birch were con-

sidered indispensably necessary in the management of schools.

The improvement in school books within the last quarter of a century has kept pace with the improvements in the arts and sciences. But the onward march of improvement has laid low many of those rude structures, and the beautiful and tasty school house now takes its place. Where once one visitor entered the school room, now scores are seen there, encouraging the teachers and scholars in their work.

Great, too, has been the change in the manner of instructing. Our teachers are better qualified, have more tact, knowledge and skill in imparting instruction, than in former years; and perhaps at no time in the last quarter of a century have our schools been in a better condition than at the present. What will be the record at the end of another century? Will our school houses, will our methods of instruction, be considered old-fogyish? Will our school books be laid aside as too hard or intricate to be understood? Will new methods of instruction be sought out that will be richly better than those we now enjoy? Let us not anticipate—each year will bring its work. Let us ever be ready to adopt the good and reject the bad, and watch over, in years to come, our common schools, the palladium of our liberties, with eternal vigilance.

Through the kindness of friends we have been enabled to obtain photographic views of the school house in District No. 1, and have forwarded one copy to the Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia. We are confident that they will compare favorably with any similar views in any of our sister towns.

The aggregate number of visitors to all the terms of school in town is two hundred and fifty, a much larger number than ever before, showing that an increased interest is felt in our common schools.

We give herewith a short abstract of each term of school taught in town, and likewise the names of those scholars on the Roll of Honor, hoping that the number will be increased till not one scholar in town will be absent or tardy.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

Albert B. Lawrence, Prudential Committee.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Emma F. Robertson, Teacher.

The Spring, Fall, and Winter Terms of this department were taught by Miss Robertson, an excellent teacher for this school—her kind words and pleasant smile making sunshine in the hearts of her scholars. Her system of teaching is calculated to interest and instruct all those under her charge. We would cheerfully recommend her to the attention of those having charge of this school the coming year. A change of teachers in this department could not greatly benefit, and it might greatly injure.

GRAMMAR DEPARTMENT.

Spring Term, taught by Serena P. Whitney. This teacher sustained her former reputation, and labored with good success in the advancement of her pupils in the paths of science. The drill and discipline of the school was excellent and thorough, and much

substantial knowledge was gained by the scholars under her charge.

Fall and Winter Terms were taught by Charles T. Cragin. A faithful worker and a successful teacher. Under his management the school has attained as high a position as it has known for a long time. He needs no commendation of ours where he is so well known, and has taught so successfully for three terms.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Henry W. Thomas, Prudential Committee.

Mary S. Ellenwood, Teacher.

This district had two terms of school, of eight and fourteen weeks. The union of School District No. 4 with this district has been of great advantage to the scholars in this section of the town. Both terms were successfully taught by Miss Ellenwood. Considering the age of the scholars, the order in school was good when visited by your committee, and the progress in studies satisfactory. We may expect her to become a good teacher when her experience shall equal her zeal.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Horace Rogers, Prudential Committee.

Lettie W. Goodhue, Teacher.

Union District—Bennington and Greenfield.

This district had but one term of seven weeks. The school appeared well at the commencement, but a lack of discipline soon became apparent. The rod

was spared, and the usefulness of the school greatly abridged.

ROLL OF HONOR.

NAMES OF SCHOLARS NOT ABSENT OR TARDY DURING THE TERM IN
THE TOWN OF BENNINGTON.

TERMS.			TERMS.		
1st.	2d.	3d.	1st.	2d.	3d.
George Coggin,	"	"	Fred Garside,	"	"
George A. Gray,	"	"	Henry Wilson,	"	"
Eddie E. George,	"	"	Fred Wilson,	"	"
Alonzo George,	"	"	George Wilson,	"	"
Nellie Payrow,	"	"	David Rogers,	"	"
Eddie S. Whitney,	"	"	Nellie Burnham,	"	"
Gracie S. Wilson,	"	"	Alice Dixon,	"	"
Harry Knight,	"	"	Hillie S. Burt,	"	"
Lura B. Ross,	"	"	Cornie Dickey,	"	"
Herbert Wilson,	"	"	John Dodge,	"	"
Mary L. Woods,	"	"	Anna Garside,	"	"
Nancy S. Dickey,	"	"	George Knight,	"	"
Lizzie M. Dickey,	"	"	Mary L. Martin,	"	"
Lula Dodge,	"	"	Frank Proctor,	"	"
Thomas Shea,	"	"	Pettee Chaney,	"	"
Mary Wilson,	"	"	Milan Cooper,	"	"
Forest Wilson,	"	"	Willie Nichols,	"	"
Lilla A. Flagg,	"	"	Frank Taylor,	"	"
Anna Payrow,	"	"	Jennie Darrah,	"	"
Addie M. Taylor,	"	"	Nellie Dodge,	"	"
Fred Dixon,	"	"	Lenora Dodge,	"	"
James Griswold,	"	"	Alma Proctor,	"	"
Henry A. George,	"	"	Anna F. Colby,	"	"
Willie B. Whitney,	"	"	Ada M. Colby,	"	"

In concluding this report, let me thank the parents for the interest they have manifested, and the teachers and scholars for the respect and kindness they have ever manifested during my connection with the schools.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. FLEMING,

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF BENNINGTON.

Bennington, March 1, 1876.

TABULAR VIEW

OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN BENNINGTON, FOR 1875-6.

TEACHERS.		Number of Districts.	
Terms.			
PRIMARY DEPT.			
1	Emma F. Robertson .	10 36	19 20
2	“ “	8 36	20 16
3	“ “	11 35	21 14
GRAMMAR DEPT.		36	36
1	Serena P. Whitney...	12	12
2	Charles T. Cragh....	8	8
3	“ “	5	5
1	Mary S. Ellenwood ...	14 39	39 13 15
2	“ “	16 36	36 13 19
3	Lettie W. Goodhue...	35 35	20 20
		13 39	13 39
		19 36	19 36
		18 35	18 35
		\$36 00	\$36 00
		36 00	36 00
		4 1 54	4 1 54
		28 25	28 25
		19 27	19 27
		154 28	154 28
		cts.	cts.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1876.

The Selectmen to the Town,

DR.

To State bonds on hand,	\$1000 00	
Tax on H. H. Duncklee's list,	25 25	
do., F. M. Hills' list,	107 69	
do., Nathan Whitney's list,	512 80	
do., James E. Favor's list,	4456 43—	\$6102 17

CR.

By State bonds sold and paid to treasurer,	\$1000 00	
Abatement on H. H. Duncklee's list,	25 25	
Tax unpaid on Hills' list,	105 57	
Paying treasurer from Hills' list,	2 12	
Paying treasurer from Whitney's list,	425 00	
Uncollected tax on Whitney's list,	87 80	
Paying treasurer from J. E. Favor's list,	3942 33	
Abatement on Favor's list,	51 51	
Uncollected tax on Favor's list,	310 94	
Discount on taxes,	151 65—	\$6102 17

WILLIAM EATON, Treasurer, to the Town,

DR.

To State bonds sold,	\$1000 00	
Interest on State bonds,	55 00	
Tax from F. M. Hills' list,	2 12	
Balance in treasury, March 1, 1875,	380 88	
Money of Selectmen for support of County paupers,	20 00	
Savings bank tax,	280 83	
Railroad tax,	28 38	
Literary fund,	45 58	
Premium on State bonds,	40 00	
Cash of A. W. Gray for town hall,	28 45	
Cash from Whitney's list,	425 00	
Cash from Favor's list,	3942 83	
Interest on taxes paid,	7 41—	\$6255 48

CR.

By paying State tax,	\$580 00	
County tax,	298 71	
C. J. Kimball, school house tax,	360 00	
Non-resident highway receipts on Favor's list,	116 33—	\$1355 04

SCHOOL ORDERS.

District No. 1, Albert B. Lawrence,	\$635 58	
No. 2, Wm. H. Thomas,	125 93	
No. 3, Horace Rogers,	41 23—	\$802 74

SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

Paid John Emory, for support of Mrs. Barker,	\$84 73	
G. B. Page, for support of Mrs. Page,	13 25	
M. M. George, for support of Mrs. Willson,	50 00	
L. Nichols, for support of Mrs. Page,	39 29	
Luther Chaney, keeping tramp,	1 50	
J. Q. A. French, medical services for Mrs. Barker,	20 00	
John Goodale, medical services,	20 00	
S. B. Otis, for support of C. M. Burt,	92 53—	\$321 30

ROADS AND BRIDGES (in addition to Highway Tax).

Paid Levi Colby,	\$ 3 25	
Benjamin Bullard,	2 05	
Wm. Taylor, snowing bridge, plank and work,	14 49	
Wm. P. Burt,	14 00	
Luther Chaney,	4 10	
Asa Holt,	2 70	
Benjamin D. Felch,	18 25	
George W. Ross,	6 29	
Chas. E. Burt,	2 20	
John W. Flagg,	3 50	
George E. Colby,	15 46	
John Flagg, lumber and work,	44 19—	\$130 48

BREAKING ROADS.

Paid John Carlin,	\$ 1 25	
Wm. Gillis,	12 60	
Edward Smith,	7 40	
B. D. Felch,	9 10	
John D. Cooper,	4 80	
Levi Colby,	18 05	
Wm. H. Thomas,	9 80	
Benjamin Bullard,	9 30	
John Goodhue,	5 20	
Wm. L. Taylor,	10 38	
Moses H. Newton,	6 30	
James E. Favor,	8 40	
Wesley Wilson,	3 90	
Alfred Rogers,	2 75	
Lewis A. Knight,	2 50	
David Roach,	1 30	
Wm. H. Darrah,	3 49	
A. C. Bullard,	4 80	
John C. Dodge,	14 80—	\$149 58

NOTES AND INTEREST PAID.

Paid Wm. B. Walker,	\$ 155 00	
Alfred Rogers,	50 00	
Emerson Favor,	48 25	
Abram Burt,	12 00	
Rachel Wilson,	38 00	
Kendall Gray,	14 71	
Wesley Wilson,	294 64	
Amos Whittemore, Congregational Society's note,	12 00	
Sarah West,	11	
Wm. L. Taylor,	202 91	
John D. Butler,	1059 17	
Wm. Eaton,	155 42	
David Rogers,	9 00—	\$2051 21

MONEY PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Benj. D. Felch, 1st Selectman,	\$61 00	
Wm. P. Burt, 2d Selectman,	51 50	
John Flagg, 3d Selectman,	56 00	
John H. Fleming, S. S. Committee,	16 00	
A. W. Gray, Town Clerk,	12 00	
Wm. Eaton, Treasurer,	15 00	
James E. Favor, Collector,	33 35	
B. D. Felch, Overseer of Poor,	12 50	
John H. Fleming, Auditor,	3 00	
Augustus W. Gray, "	2 00—	\$262 35

MISCELLANEOUS TOWN EXPENSES.

Paid G. W. Burns, work on reservoir,	\$ 8 00	
J. W. Flagg, work on reservoir,	11 00	
M. D. Poor, lumber for reservoir,	4 12	
Alfred Gray, work on reservoir,	10 00	
Wm. P. Burt, work on reservoir,	20 00	
H. M. Clark, lumber for reservoir,	2 88	
Farnum & Scott, printing town reports,	18 00	
N. B. Garside, work in cemetery,	5 00	
Asa Holt, filling up hay scales,	4 00	
Express bills,	65	
Noah G. Payrow, work on reservoir,	2 00	
Benjamin Bullard, sheep killed by dogs,	4 00	
B. W. Sanborn & Co.,	75	
M. M. George, for engine men,	68 25	
F. M. Hills, tolling bell,	2 50	
Amos Whittemore, rent of engine house,	12 00	
E. C. Eastman, books, etc.,	14 12	
James E. Favor, watering trough,	1 50	
H. Lakin, mending key for town hall,	25	
Horace Rogers, 3 sheep killed by dogs,	9 00	
G. A. Whittemore, for pump,	3 00	
Wm. Eaton, horse hire,	5 50	
John H. Fleming, weekly school reports,	1 00	
A. W. Gray, care of town hall,	12 00	
A. B. Lawrence, care of fire engine,	25 00	
B. D. Felch, horse hire and journey to Concord,	14 50—	\$259 02

RECAPITULATION.

Money and receipts put into the Treasurer's hands from March 1, 1875, to March 1, 1876,	\$6255 48
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We credit the treasurer by paying the following sums:

By paying State and County tax,	\$ 878 71	
School house tax,	360 00	
Non-resident highway receipts on Favor's list,	116 33	
School Orders,	802 74	
Support of Paupers,	321 30	
Roads and Bridges,	130 48	
Breaking Roads,	149 58	
Notes and Interest paid,	2051 21	
Town Officers,	262 35	
Miscellaneous Town Expenses,	259 02—	\$5331 72

Leaving a balance in the treasury of	<u>\$923 76</u>
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Of this sum \$500.00 is a note due the town; the balance is in cash in the treasury, less \$125.00 due School District No. 1.

TOWN LIABILITIES.

David Rogers. note dated	March 1, 1876,	\$ 150 00
Abram Burt,	Aug. 30, 1871,	206 00
John W. Flagg,	Jan. 2, 1871,	1351 36
C. S. A. Hodskins,	Jan. 5, 1871,	296 68
Mary E. Bell,	July 29, 1871,	130 66
Alfred Rogers,	July 31, 1871,	526 37
Susan Pitcher,	Aug. 24, 1871,	169 20
Sarah M. Taylor,	Sept. 19, 1871,	335 65
Dorcas Flagg,	Feb. 10, 1872,	1182 46
Isaac Proctor,	Feb. 19, 1872,	76 46
Lydia Pollard,	Nov. 11, 1872,	136 25
Mary C. Eaton,	April 5, 1872,	42 24
Susan Pitcher,	April 16, 1872,	88 94
Rachel Wilson,	March 1, 1874,	241 94
John W. Flagg,	Feb. 28, 1873,	297 75
William Eaton,	Nov. 1, 1873,	950 71
Josie M. Taylor,	Nov. 78, 1873,	457 57
John A. Whittemore,	Jan. 28, 1874,	565 66
George E. Hills,	Jan. 28, 1874,	141 13
John D. Butler,	Feb. 24, 1874,	378 76
William B. Walker,	Feb. 24, 1874,	274 08
Lydia Pollard,	April 15, 1874,	1106 17
Mary E. Dodge,	March 1, 1875,	435 80
Mrs. S. Abbott,	Jan. 8, 1875,	75 22
Emerson Favor,	Feb. 19, 1876,	110 19
Congregational Society Note,	Feb. 6, 1876,	200 76
Betsey Burt,	Oct. 1, 1875,	259 67
Josephine F. Gray,	Sept. 21, 1875,	205 20
Sarah West,	Feb. 18, 1873,	400 72

\$10,793 60

Town Liabilities,

\$10,793 60

AVAILABLE ASSETS.

Tax on F. M. Hill's list,	\$105 57	
Tax on Nathan Whitney's list,	87 80	
Tax on J. E. Favor's list,	310 94	
Balance in treasury, including note,	923 76	
	<u>\$1,428 07</u>	
Money in treasurer's hands due School District,	125 00—	\$1,303 07
Total indebtedness of the town,		<u>\$9,490 53</u>
Reduction of debt from last year,		\$675 38

We have examined the above report of the Selectmen and Treasurer and find it accurately cast and properly vouched.

JOHN H. FLEMING, }
AUGUSTUS W. GRAY, } Auditors.

LIST OF DELINQUENT TAX PAYERS ON JAMES E. FAVOR'S

LIST OF 1875.

George W. Burns,	29 25	Orville A. Wilson,	4 50
Burns & Coggin,	58 50	Taylor D. Lakin,	22 50
Burnham heirs,	7 88	George J. Whittemore,	2 50
John D. Cooper,	7 88	Armand C. Bullard,	2 85
Charles H. Coggin,	3 28	George Dresser,	5 76
Nathaniel E. Dickey,	6 63	Loren H. Flanders,	3 91
Amos Eaton,	3 32	Job D. Thomas,	6 19
Alfred Gray,	14 95	William H. Thomas,	6 30
Samuel D. Gilson,	2 25	Joel B. Smith,	1 90
Noah G. Payrow,	2 25	Frank S. Smith,	3 68
James L. Ross,	4 50	Edward E. Smith,	4 39
Lorenzo D. Richardson,	2 25	Burns & Coggin,	1 08

REPORT OF THE SEXTON OF THE TOWN OF BENNINGTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 19, 1876.

	Age y. m. d.	Date of death.	Disease.	Place of interment.
Mrs. Orville A. Wilson,	34	March 30.	Consumption.	Bennington.
Miss Aura M. Carr,	19	May 12.	Diphtheria.	Antrim.
Mrs. Lois R. Caldwell,	84 7 24	Oct. 20.	Pneumonia.	Bennington.
Oliver C. Coggin,	3 3	Oct. 28.	Drowned.	Bennington.
John A. Whittemore,	32 6 12	Nov. 20.	Consumption.	Bennington.

The following persons have been brought to Bennington for interment:

*Mrs. Sarah C. Cilley,	21 1 15	Feb. 25.	Bennington.
†Mrs. Nancy M. Mather,	34 1	Apr. 22.	Bennington.
‡Mrs. Elvira J. Gassett,	51 2	Nov. 2.	Bennington.

*Died in Peterboro', N. H. †Died in Hancock, N. H. ‡Died in Cambridgeport, Mass.

F. M. HILLS, Sexton.

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